

From: Marvin Rohrs
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 11/16/01 7:47pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Gentlemen:

I strongly object to the proposed Microsoft settlement -- I believe that the requirements are far too little when one considers the damage that has been done to the millions of existing users of their Windows O.S. The settlement will do absolutely nothing for me, as an end user of Windows. I will still be stuck with operating systems (I have 3 of them ? all Windows 98, 2nd Edition) that have embedded in them many completely unwanted and totally unrelated functions that occupy hard drive space and slow down my computers. I will still be stuck with an O.S. that does not interface well with other, non-Microsoft software, resulting in frequent system freezes. Historically, each version of Windows that Microsoft releases promises to correct the bugs in previous versions, only to have a whole new set of bugs show up. They never seem to correct all of the bugs in a given version before releasing a new version -- this leaves the user stuck with the problems.

It is my opinion that Microsoft should be forced to provide current users of Windows 95, 98, 2000, and ME with a means to TOTALLY remove unwanted functions that have been illegally bundled with the basic Windows O.S. -- such as their Internet browser, e-mail, and messaging. They should be forced to support previous versions until all of the bugs have been addressed and corrected.

They should also be forced, in the future, to totally separate the Windows O.S. from their other software. Windows would then be marketed as a basic O.S. for which the code has been provided to other software developers so that their software can operate seamlessly with Windows, instead of freezing the system. Their other software would then have to compete fairly with software from other companies. As it is now, they have an extremely unfair advantage. They have literally destroyed Netscape and Lotus, both of which have products that are far superior to the comparable Microsoft software. Netscape used to be the dominant web browser until Microsoft used their monopoly on the Windows O.S. to destroy them -- even though the Netscape browser is still superior to the Microsoft browser. The Lotus 123 spreadsheet used to be the only spreadsheet to have until Microsoft began to force computer manufacturers to offer their Office bundle with their computers. Lotus 123 is still far superior to M.S. Excel!!!! Unless Microsoft is forced to fully separate Windows as an O.S. (for which they, unfortunately, have a monopoly) from their software (for which they do not as yet have a monopoly), they will ultimately force other software companies into the same fate.

Finally, Microsoft should be forced to make each new version of Windows backward compatible with software that ran satisfactorily on previous versions. For example, I have no intention of upgrading to the XP version because it is my understanding there are many incompatibilities with other older software, even though it is not widely publicized. I have no intention of spending thousands of dollars to upgrade to newer versions of other software just so that I can boast the latest version of Windows and encounter a whole new range of operating bugs.

Microsoft cannot be allowed to continue to use their monopoly to drive other companies to the wall, as they have done in the past.

Sincerely,

Marvin K. Rohrs, P.E.
rohrsm@asme.org